

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

<u>CERTIFIED MAIL</u> RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

JUL 1 2 2002

Linda Laulicht 18 Crestwood Dr. West Orange, NJ 07052

RE:

MUR 5279

Bill Bradley for President, Inc.

Dear Ms. Laulicht:

On June 26, 2002, the Federal Election Commission found that there is reason to believe you violated 2 U.S.C. §§ 441a(a)(3), 441f and 11 C.F.R. §§ 110.5(b), 110.4(b)(1)(iv), provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act") and Commission regulations. The Factual and Legal Analysis, which formed a basis for the Commission's finding, is attached for your information.

You may submit any factual or legal materials that you believe are relevant to the Commission's consideration of this matter. Please submit such materials to the General Counsel's Office within 15 days of your receipt of this letter. In addition, please complete and return the enclosed questionnaire within 15 days. Where appropriate, statements should be submitted under oath. In the absence of additional information, the Commission may find probable cause to believe that a violation has occurred and proceed with conciliation.

If you are interested in pursuing pre-probable cause conciliation, you should so request in writing. See 11 C.F.R. § 111.18(d). Upon receipt of the request, the Office of the General Counsel will make recommendations to the Commission either proposing an agreement in settlement of the matter or recommending declining that pre-probable cause conciliation be pursued. The Office of the General Counsel may recommend that pre-probable cause conciliation not be entered into at this time so that it may complete its investigation of the matter. Further, the Commission will not entertain requests for pre-probable cause conciliation after briefs on probable cause have been mailed to the respondent.

Requests for extensions of time will not be routinely granted. Requests must be made in writing at least five days prior to the due date of the response and specific good cause must be demonstrated. In addition, the Office of the General Counsel ordinarily will not give extensions beyond 20 days.

If you intend to be represented by counsel in this matter, please advise the Commission by completing the enclosed form stating the name, address, and telephone number of such counsel, and authorizing such counsel to receive any notifications and other communications from the Commission.

This matter will remain confidential in accordance with 2 U.S.C. §§ 437g(a)(4)(B) and 437g(a)(12)(A), unless you notify the Commission in writing that you wish the investigation to be made public.

For your information, we have enclosed a brief description of the Commission's procedures for handling possible violations of the Act. If you have any questions, please contact Albert Veldhuyzen or Michelle E. Abellera, the attorneys assigned to this matter, at (202) 694-1650.

Sincerely,

Karl J. Sandstrom Vice Chairman

Enclosures
Factual and Legal Analysis
Procedures
Designation of Counsel Form
Ouestionnaire

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION FACTUAL AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

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RESPONDENT:

Linda Laulicht

MUR: 5279

GENERATION OF MATTER I.

This matter was generated by an audit of Bradley for President, Inc. ("Committee") and Theodore V. Wells, as treasurer, undertaken in accordance with 26 U.S.C. § 9038(a). 10

II. FACTUAL AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

A. Law

The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (the "Act"), provides that no person shall make a contribution in the name of another person or knowingly permit his name to be used to effect such a contribution, and no person shall knowingly accept a contribution made by one person in the name of another. 2 U.S.C. § 441f. See also 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b)(1).

B. Contribution in the Name of Another

The Committee received 40 business checks totaling \$40,000 on June 22, 1999. The checks were written on the accounts of 40 different business entities and attributed to 39 individuals. A contribution schedule provided by the Committee listed all the contributors as partners in various "partnerships;" the schedule listed the names of the partnerships, the contributing partner and the address of the partnership. All of the partnerships have the same address: 26 Columbia Turnpike, Florham Park, NJ. This address is the corporate headquarters of Kushner Companies, a business owned and chaired by Charles Kushner. Constantine Village

Dun and Bradstreet reports indicate that Kushner Companies is involved in approximately 100 locations. These properties appear to be managed by partnerships or limited liability companies in which Kushner Companies is the general partner.

- 1 Associates has been identified as a managing residential property held by Kushner Companies,
- and Mr. Kushner has been identified as an officer/director of Constantine Village Associates.
- One of the contributions (check #7438 written for \$1,000) was attributed to Linda
- 4 Laulicht as a partner of Constantine Village Associates. However, there is no evidence to
- 5 confirm that Ms. Laulicht is a partner in Constantine Village Associates or that Ms. Laulicht's
- 6 individual partnership account was charged.² The Commission attempted to verify the status of
- 7 Constantine Village Associates through Dun and Bradstreet and the New Jersey Secretary of
- 8 State. There was no evidence that Ms. Laulicht was a "partner" of Constantine Village
- 9 Associates. However, research by this office revealed that Ms. Laulicht is a relative of Mr.
 - Kushner.

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An examination of all 40 contribution checks indicates that they were mass-produced and originated from a single corporate source. The accountholder's name, bank routing numbers and other notations all appear to be printed in the same type as the payee and amount information.

All but three checks contained the same typographical error. The fundraiser's name, Sapoch, was spelled incorrectly in the payee line ("Japoch"). All of the checks were drawn on accounts held at two different banks, Norcrown Bank and Valley National Bank. Norcrown Bank is part of the Kushner group of businesses. Lastly, all the checks appear to have been signed by the same person. Although not legible, the signatures on the checks appear very consistent. Given the likelihood that the checks were signed by Mr. Kushner and originated from Kushner Companies and given the absence of evidence that the partners of the various partnerships intended to make

The Committee sent follow-up letters to determine the eligibility of the contributions for matching funds. Only 4 of the 39 contributors replied to the Committee's request for verification. Ms. Laulicht did not reply.

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- contributions, the Office of General Counsel believes that Kushner Companies and/or Mr. 1
- Kushner were the true source of the contributions. 2
- Given Kushner Companies and Mr. Kushner's control over Constantine Village Associates and other partnerships, Mr. Kushner's relation to Ms. Laulicht and other named contributors, and the fact that the contributions appear to be signed by the same individual, were 5 written for the same amount, and delivered on the same day, it is likely that contributions were 6 made in the name of another. Furthermore, Ms. Laulicht made contributions to other federal 7 campaign committees under similar circumstances. The presence of this bundling pattern of 8 contributions suggests that Ms. Laulicht may have allowed her name to be used to effect 9 contributions in the name of another. Accordingly, the Commission found reason to believe that 10

C. Excessive Contributions

Linda Laulicht violated 2 U.S.C. § 441f and 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b)(1)(iv).

The Act prohibits individuals from making contributions aggregating more than \$25,000 in any calendar year. 2 U.S.C. § 441a(a)(3). Any contribution made to a candidate with respect to a particular election, but made in a non-election year, is considered to be made during the calendar year in which the election is held. 11 C.F.R. § 110.5(c)(1)-(2). Based on a review of the campaign disclosure database, it appears that Ms. Laulicht made contributions totaling \$49,000 in 2000. Accordingly, the Commission found reason to believe that Linda Laulicht violated 2 U.S.C. § 441a(a)(3) and 11 C.F.R. § 110.5(b) by making contributions in excess of her annual \$25,000 contribution limitation.

A comparison of the check signatures with Mr. Kushner's signature as displayed on the Kushner Companies' website suggests that the signatures may have originated from the same person.



Questionnaire in Matter Under Review 5279 Linda Laulicht

Questionnaire Instructions

Pursuant to 2 U.S.C. § 437g, the Federal Election Commission is investigating contributions to the Bill Bradley for President, Inc. ("Bradley Committee") during the 2000 presidential primary election campaign. The Commission has obtained documents that appear to show that you made a \$1,000 partnership contribution to the Bradley Committee on June 16, 1999 by check number 7438. A copy of check number 7438 is attached for your review.

Please answer the following questions by checking the appropriate boxes or filling in the blank lines. Please review your answers to ensure they are accurate and complete. For all questions that call for a description or explanation, attach additional sheets if necessary. Please submit the questionnaire to the General Counsel's Office within 15 days of receipt.

What is your occupat	tion?	•		
Please provide vour				
				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Did you make a \$1,0 number 7438?	000 partnersl	nip contribution to the	Bradle	ey Committee with check
	Yes		N	Ю
Did you consent to t	the \$1,000 pa	artnership contribution	?	•
	Yes		N	No ·
a. When did you co	onsent to the	\$1,000 partnership cor	ıtributi	on?
b. How did you co	ensent to the	\$1,000 partnership con	tributi	on?
	Did you make a \$1, number 7438? Did you consent to	Did you make a \$1,000 partnersh number 7438? Yes Did you consent to the \$1,000 partnersh number 7438.	Please provide your employer's address. Did you make a \$1,000 partnership contribution to the number 7438? Yes Did you consent to the \$1,000 partnership contribution Yes a. When did you consent to the \$1,000 partnership contribution	Please provide your employer's address. Did you make a \$1,000 partnership contribution to the Bradle number 7438? Yes Did you consent to the \$1,000 partnership contribution?

c.		nmunicate your consen		
			·	
d.	Did anyone ackn	owledge your consent?	Please name t	the individual(s).
e.	When was your	consent acknowledged?		
		,		
Ar	e you a partner of	Constantine Village A	ssociates?	
		Yes		No
	hat is your partner onstantine Village	-	limited partner	or a general partner of
		Limited Partner		General Partner
Ple	ease describe the s	structure and status of C	Constantine Vil	lage Associates:
a.	How many limit	ed partners does Const	antine Village 1	Associates have?
b.	Please list the lin	nited partners of Const	antine Village	Associates.
	·			
c.	Please list the ge	eneral partners of Const	tantine Village	Associates.
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f.	Are you er	nployed	by Constantine Village As	sociates?	
			Yes		No
g.	Are you ar	n office	of Constantine Village Ass	ociates?	
			Yes		No
h.		-	our job title(s) and responsibge Associates?	vilities as	an employee or officer of
	ow did you ommittee?	submit	your \$1,000 contribution w	ith check	number 7438 to the Bradley
	•	orize th	e \$1,000 contribution with o	heck nun	nber 7438 to the Bradley
Co	mmittee?		Yes		No
		-	,000 contribution with check	c number	7438 originate from a
ba	nk account	that you	ı control? Yes		No
			,000 contribution with chec	k numbe	r 7438 originate from a
pe	rsonal partr	nership :	interest that you control? Yes		No
			entation showing that your linterest was charged.	oank acco	ount was debited or your
	Does Con embers?	stantine	Village Associates organiz	e a politio	cal contribution plan for its
			Yes		No
b	. Please des	scribe tl	ne contribution plan.		
			<u></u>		

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						·
		ull each person'			_	of your contribution to
	,				-	
18.	a. Did anyone asso contribution to the			ge Assoc	ciates e	ncourage you to make
		Yes			No	
	b. Please list the inc	dividuals and de	escribe the cir	cumstanc	ces.	
19.	a. Did anyone asso		-	nies enco	urage y No	ou to make a
	b. Please list the in		escribe the ci	_		
	U. I lease list the li					
20	Are you a member	of any other na	rtnershins?			
20.		Yes	tulorsimps.		No	(If you answered "no," please proceed to question 34.)
21.	Please list all the please.	artnerships, oth	er than Const	antine Vi	llage A	Associates, to which you

22.	How long have you	been a member				
23.	What is your owners	ship interest in	-	-		
	What is the relations Kushner Companies	?		nerships	to wh	
	Have you made conpartnerships?					
		Yes			No	(If you answered "no please proceed to question 34.)
26.	On a separate sheet, partnerships. Please				e as a j	partner of other
	Committee:					
	Partnership:			Date: _		Amount:
27.	a. Do the partnershi	ps organize po	litical contribu	tion pla	ns for	its members?
		Yes			No	(If you answered "no please proceed to question 30.)
	b. Please describe the	e contribution p	olan.			

28.	As a partner, did yo	ou agree to ma	ke political co	ntribution	s throu	igh a plan?
		Yes			No	(If you answered "no," please proceed to question 30.)
29.	When did you agre		e in such a plar			
30.		ove contribution				bmitted the contribution
31.	Please list all other committees. Please	persons invo		iking cont	ributio	ons to other federal
32.	a. Did anyone assorto the federal co		ne partnerships	encourage	e you t	to make contributions
•	b. Please list the in	dividuals and	describe the ci	rcumstanc	es.	-
33.	a. Did anyone asso		ushner Compa	nies encou	irage y	ou to make contribution
	. 🗖	Yes			No	
	b. Please list the in	ndividuals and	describe the c	ircumstan	ces.	
						
		•				

34.	bonuses, reimbu	irsements or f		uence o	de you with any payments, f your contributions to or?
		Yes			No
	b. Please list the ir	ndividuals and	l describe the circ	umstano	ces.
25	What is your relat	ionshin to Vu	ahnar Campanian		
33.	What is your relat	ionship to Ku	snner Companies		
36.	Have you ever bee	• •	oy Kushner Comp	_	NI.
37.	Please provide the	Yes e length of you	ur employment or	associa	No tion with Kushner Companies.
38.	Kushner Companisoliciting contribucollecting and forward	es and associations; suggest warding contrinctions relate	ated partnerships. ing or requesting ibutions. "Fundraid d to other events i	"Fundr that a co ising act	ou have participated involving aising activity" includes ontribution be made; making, civity" also includes meetings, ag the soliciting, making,

Questionnaire- MUR 5279 Linda Laulicht Page 9

	on the	day of	, 2002.
	Signature:_		
	Date:	·	
We may wish to speak with you lethe best time during normal busing	-		hone number and tell us
	ness hours for u	s to call.	hone number and tell us

Mail to all federal agencies in Washington, DC is irradiated against anthrax and other biological hazards. This has resulted in substantial delays in delivery. For this reason, we ask that you also fax a copy of your response to us at (202) 219-1043 or scan it and email it to Albert Veldhuyzen at aveldhuyzen@fec.gov.

If you have any questions, you may call the FEC attorneys assigned to this matter, Albert Veldhuyzen and Michelle Abellera, at (202) 694-1650 or (800) 424-9530.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE.

AMOUNT \$****1,000.00 55-136/212 CHECK NO. CONSTANTINE V. ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND NO CENTS 73 S. LIVINGSTON AVE LIVINGSTON, NJ 07039 VALLEY NATIONAL BANK BILL BRADLEY PRES EXPL COMMITT NJ 08540 C/O BETTY W. JAPOCH 4 HAWTHORNE AVENUE CONSTANTINE VILLAGE ASSOC, NJ 07932 PRINCETON 26 COLUMBIA TURNPIKE PAY EXACTLY FLORHAM PARK DATE 06/16/99 PAY TO THE ORDER OF

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE